

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 04670 130604Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /072 W
-----085395 132140Z /45

R 121658Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4190
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMCONSUL AUCKLAND POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, MNUC, NZ, US
SUBJECT: RESULTS OF NEW ZEALAND LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS

1. SUMMARY. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. NEW ZEALAND VOTERS WENT TO THE POLLS OCTOBER 8 TO ELECT LOCAL OFFICIALS (MAYORS, COUNCILLORS, AND REPRESENTATIVES TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES SUCH AS HARBOR, HOSPITAL, WATER AND POWER BOARDS). VOTER TURN-OUT WAS AVERAGE FOR AN OFF-YEAR ELECTION AND FOR THE MOST PART, DTERS RE-ELECTED THE OLD FACES. LABOR LFRTY WAS UNABLE TO MAKE ANY APPRECIABLE HEADWAY AND SUFFERED A CRUSHING DEFEAT IN AUCKLAND. MOST LABOR CANDIDATES WHO HAD PLEDGED TO BAN U.S. NPW VISITS FROM WELLINGTON HARBOR ALSO LOST. END SUMMARY.

2. IN LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS OCTOBER 8 THROUGHOUT NEW ZEALAND, VOTERS FOR THE MOST PART STRUCK WITH TRIED AND PROVEN INCUMBENTS. IN EACH OF COUNTRY'S MAJOR URBAN AREAS INCUMBENT MAYORS WERE RETURNED TO OFFICE WITH HANDY MAJORITIES (SIR DOVE-MYER ROBINSON IN AUCKLAND; MICHAEL FOWLER IN WELLINGTON; HAMISH HAY IN CHRISTCHURCH).

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POLITICAL COMPLEXION OF MOST CITY COUNCILS WAS ALSO MAINTAINED AS BEFORE WITH EXCEPTIONS OF CHRISTCHURCH AND LOWER HUTT WHERE CITIZENS AND RATEPAYERS (USUALLY LOCAL EUPHAMISM FOR NATIONAL PARTY CANDIDATES) MAYORS WILL FIND THEMSELVES WORKING WITH LABOR-DOMINATED COUNCILS.

3. THE LABOR PARTY, HOPEFUL OF MAKING OFF-YEAR GAINS AT

THE POLLS, WAS IN LARGE MEASURE DISAPPOINTED WITH RESULTS. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF AUCKLAND WHERE LABOR FOUND ITSELF AT THE CLOSE HOLDING BUT ONE SEAT ON THE TWENTY-ONE MEMBER CITY COUNCIL AND ONE SEAT ON THE TWELVE MEMBER POWER BOARD. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. COMMENT. BEGIN LOU. WITH NO NATIONAT ISSUES DOMINATING THE LOCAL ELECTIONS, BALLOTS WERE CAST THIS YEAR ON ISSUES EXCLUSIVELY LOCAL IN NATURE. ALTHOUGH NATIONAL CANNOT POINT WITH SPECIAL PRIDE TO ANY STUNNING UPSETS, NEITHER DID IT SUFFER IMPORTANT LOSSES. OVER MOST OF COUNTRY, LABOR CAN MAKE THE SAME CLAIM WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AUCKLAND WHERE THE PARTY SUFFERED A WHOLESAL REJECTION OF LABOR SLATE. THIS RESULT PROBABLY REFLECTS HIGH DEGREE OF UNPOPULARITY OF LABOR'S MAYORAL CANDIDATE (JIM P. ANDERTON), EVEN AMONG TRADITIONAL LABOR SUPPORTERS. THUS, IN CRITICAL AUCKLAND AREA (WHERE AS MANY MP'S ARE CHOSEN AS FOR WHOLE OF SOUTH ISLAND), LABOR PARTY SHOWS SIGNS OF SERIOUS DISARRAY AND WILL NEED TO MAKE EXTRAORDINARY ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS BETWEEN NOW AND 1978 IF IT IS TO HOPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL RACE IN GENERAL ELECTIONS.

5. OF PARTICULAR U.S. INTEREST WAS THE DEFEAT OF MOST OF LABOR CANDIDATES FOR WELLINGTON HARBOR BOARD WHO HAD RUN ON PLATFORM OF BANNING ALL FUTURE VISITS OF AMERICAN NPW'S TO WELLINGTON. HARBOR BOARD WILL CONTINUE FOR NEXT THREE YEARS TO BE DOMINATED BY FRIENDLY NATIONAL/CITIZENS/ LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RATEPAYERS COALITION. END COMMENT. END LOU. SELDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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TAGS: PINT, MNUC, NZ, US
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